

ECHO IRELAND

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Irish Radio Transmitters Society
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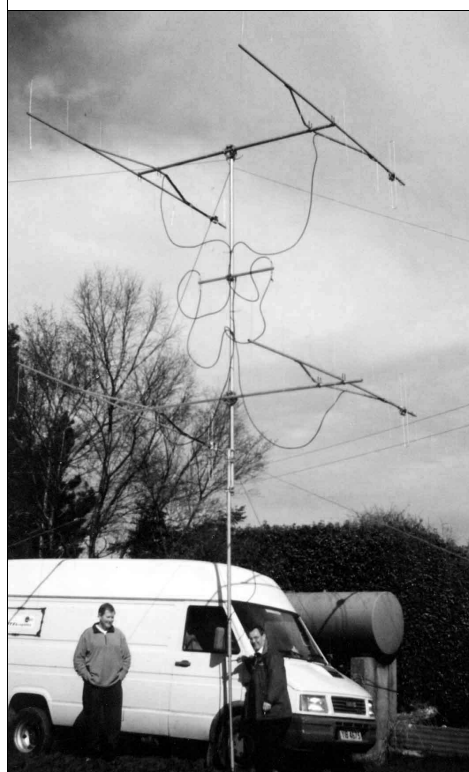


The DDG DX Group—IOTA 2002

Some members of the Dublin.- Dundalk - Glengormley DX Group pictured as they
wait to board their ferry on their way to Inishboffin for this years IOTA Contest.
See Page 12 for further details on this new Group.

Contents

Society Officers 2002/2003	2
Silent Key.-EI8Z - Thoughts from the Editor.. ..	3
On the Air with Anthony EI2HY	4
Silent Keys - Gene EI3K and Neilus EI8IY	6
EI8IC's Free maps - The ISS - Slide Rule Exhibition	7
Club Round Up - News from the Clubs	8
Letters Page - Worked All Mayo Award News	10
We All Make Mistakes by Ger EI8HT	11
IOTA 2002 - The DDG DX Group on Inishboffin - EI0HQ in IARU Test.....	12
IOTA 2002 - EJ4F on Inis Oirr - EJ3HB on Bere - IOTA EI records	13
Down Memory Lane with Tony EI5EM	14
Cork Repeater - VHF News from EI3IX	15
Contest Corner with EI4BZ. ARRL 10m and CQWW SSB results.....	16
IRTS 2m Spring Counties Results - Rules for EU Autumn Sprint.....	17
EI2JF/Aeronautical Mobile - Reading the Mail with EI2CL	18
2002 Squares Table - Scouting 75th Stations - Contest Calendar.....	19
International Space Station - Pharmacists Group.....	20
Inishkea at last with EI3IX - .Cork Blarney Rally	21
Members Advertisements - 4 Metre Activity report	22
SOTA with EI7GY - Lee de Forest, Irish connection	23
IRTS Video Library - the full listing.....	24



The 2 metre array of Dundalk Amateur
Radio Society EI7DAR/p pictures at the
Spring Counties Contest 2002

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From the Editor.....

Welcome to a somewhat delayed issue of Echo Ireland.

My sincere apologies to all members but we will get back on track and ensure that six issues appear this year.

A combination of disasters caused the serious delay, starting with the illness and death of my mother in late May. My thanks to all who attended the funeral services, sent cards, or rang to sympathise.

Persistent computer problems caused further delays, starting with a hard disk crash and of course insufficient back ups. We never do learn!

This was followed with a spate of viruses which took some time to overcome.

I hope that I have not lost any input but it is possible. If your material is not in this issue, please contact me or resend it.

Now that the summer season is nearly over and clubs will be getting back to some kind of action, an annual plea to club officers.... Please let the IRTS News service know what you are doing.

Our radio news editor Mark EI7IS has had a tough Summer trying to get out weekly bulletins with very little input from members. Please try and make his job a little easier.

I have had several phone calls and messages from members who were apparently upset at the non appearance of major news on the bulletins.

As I pointed out to the callers, the news editors are not clairvoyant and if you do not submit the material, it cannot be included.

Do not assume that someone else will do it.!

Thanks to all who submitted material for this issue. Keep it coming. The next deadline will be tight as we try to catch up on lost time and I look forward to a deluge of news from clubs who are making plans for the coming winter season.

I live in hope!

73

Dave EI4BZ

EI8Z A Silent Key

JIMMY UPTON 1923--2002.

Jimmy was born in Waterford but spent most of his youth in Co. Kildare.

He enlisted in the Army in the early days of World War 2 and served in the Signal Corps, where he became a skilled radio technician and operator - especially in C W.

When peace returned in 1945 he found a niche in the radio and electrical world, serving with Kelly & Shiels, Brownlee Bros., and ultimately with Kilroys where he remained until his retirement.

In the early 1950's soon after his marriage to Tess, the young couple joined a cooperative which undertook the building of houses in Finglas, using as far as possible the combined skills and labour of the members.

The family moved into their newly built home in 1954, and it was there that Jimmy spent the rest of his lifetime.

Jimmy obtained his license and single-letter callsign and took an eager interest in all the activities of the IRTS Region 1, using surplus equipment from WW2.

About this time, he became interested in the newly-emerging television service which was being broadcast in the U.K. and he spent many hours up in the Dublin mountains developing equipment for reception of weak signals from over there.

While Jimmy and Tess were raising their six children, he managed to maintain his interest in amateur radio and he was one of a small group, which began to meet in the Scouts Hall, Ballygall Road.

This group went on to become the Fingal Radio Club in the late 1970's, and it was there that Jimmy passed on his knowledge and CW skills to so many newcomers to the hobby who joined the Club.

His old WW2 gear finally gave way to new equipment from Japan, which enabled him to join the world of SSB. The departure of his sons and daughters to homes of their own allowed him to move his radio gear from the attic down to one of the bedrooms and he operated from there right up to the end of his days.

Jimmy was a keen historian, and he spent several years collecting a mass of documents relating to amateur radio activity in Ireland from which he wrote a history covering the years from the start of the Dublin Wireless Club in 1913 to recent times.

He was also very interested in genealogy and did a vast amount of research into his own family history, which brought him into contact with newly discovered relatives in England and the U.S.A.

Jimmy's passing will be mourned by countless members of the IRTS and the Fingal Radio Club who received a helping hand from him down through the years.

Jimmy was President of IRTS from 1979 to 1982 and over his long association with the Society, he filled many of the more important positions..

To his devoted wife Tess, and his beloved children Frank, Yvonne, Marie, Jim, Terence and Gerard, our sincere sympathy goes.

May he rest in peace.

Sean Linehan EI7CV



On The Air

With Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY

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Welcome to another On The Air issue. We're running a few weeks late so plenty to catch up on and we begin as always with a report on how the Sun has been behaving over the past couple of weeks.

It's now a bit more apparent that the "Good Times" are slowly coming to an end with HF conditions well into the Summer Doldrums state, with fewer openings on 10m and rather subdued propagation on 15m and 20m during the daylight hours. In contrast some late night listening on 20m shows the band wide open to the US and Pacific with very big signals so it could be time to change the sleeping patterns!

Shorter hours of darkness and high QRN noise levels make propagation difficult on the lower bands of 80m and 160m.

The month of July saw two of the biggest sunspot groups in recent months rotate into view with one, Sunspot 30 stretching an impressive 15 Earth diameters from end to end while the other group, Sunspot Active Region 36, has grown close to the same size.

As the ad says size does matter and as to be expected from these large groups some energetic Flares were blasted towards the Earth.

For example, on July 20th we had a Class X3.3 Flare erupt followed three days later on the 23rd by a more intense Class X4.8. These two combined to produce a minor Radio Blackout which had frequencies above 20MHz totally dead due to D-layer absorption.

The next few weeks could prove interesting as another giant Sunspot Group, Region 39, has rotated into view and has the potential to produce some of the biggest Geomagnetic Storms in ten years! Indeed at the time of writing just after the IOTA contest a very large CME swept past the Earth barely glancing us but still produced a minor radio blackout, so Group 39 could still have a few more surprises for us.

Band Reports

The big news over the past few weeks is that Ed, P5/4L4FN, as well as having his SSB QSO's going back to November 2001 accepted for DXCC also has had his RTTY contacts going back to the same period accepted as well, not sure where that puts any CW contacts!

The good news for us still waiting for that elusive QSO with North Korea is that Ed has extended his contract until June 2003 and thanks to a generous donation by Bernie, W3UR, of Daily DX fame and world famous DXer Martti Lane, OH2BH, Ed now has an Ameritron AL80A amplifier.

Proving that when it rains it pours, after the excitement of getting North Korea on the air officially it might now be the turn of Yemen (7O) to be regularly on-air as no less than two separate operations have been QRV and both saying they have written permission to bring in equipment.

First off the mark was Chris Lorek, G4HCL, of Radcom and Practical Wireless Magazines fame who made a handful of contacts as 7O/G4HCL "under the direct supervision of the Yemeni Communications Ministry" and was hoping to operate a lot more often when he was due to go back to Yemen on a three week contract towards the end of May. Unfortunately due to a close family member illness Chris has been unable to return to Yemen yet but apparently has been told the permission to operate will still be there for as long as it takes.

He will hope to obtain the call 7O1YA (Yemen Airways) as he will be operating from Sanaa International Airport using 1Kw to a professional Antenna system, otherwise he might come on with maybe 7O1CL.

Very much QRV though was Pekka, OH2YY, who came on from the capital Sanaa as 7O/OH2YY between May 7th and the 11th with a Yaesu FT-840, a Cushcraft R5 Vertical and a FinnFet 1001 amplifier which certainly had him sounding very strong on the evening of May 8th when I first heard him.

I had to wait until the following day to finally work him on 10m so hopefully he wouldn't go the same way as other "official" operations such as 7O1A and 7O1YGF who failed to supply the ARRL with the vital documentation! There is a mention that the members of the 7O1YGF did hand over some documentation to ARRL officials at the Friedrichshafen Hamfest.

Pekka went QRT on Saturday the 11th but not before I heard him working Dermot, EI6FM, Hugh, EI2HI, and possibly Barry, EI2IO, on 10m so now a few more EI's have their fingers crossed hi!

Now that the dust has settled on the VP6DI activation the problems began with their on-line log as a "hacker" stole the data off the web page. It led to a few anxious days wait to see were you in the log as only half of the over 50,000 QSO's made it in before being hacked hi!

The problem has now been resolved and I noted a total of 23 EI's in the log with some working them on various bands and modes to make a total of 36 QSO's. Some of the Ducie gang then came on air from Henderson Island (OC-056) for a few hours before continuing on the journey back to Pitcairn.

A different story though with the VK9ML, Mellish Reef, trip where only four EI's made it in the log, an increase of four from last years scouting trip out there, congrats go to EI3IO on 15m SSB, EI6FM also on 15m SSB, EI6FR on 15 CW and lastly EI7BA on 20m CW and 17m CW.

Due to high seas the team didn't make it to Mellish until April 14th and a few hours frantic setting up had the first station on-air by 10:00 UTC April 15th. Despite Solar Storms hitting them badly by the time they went QRT on April 25th the log total was some 50,950 QSO's. This broke down into 26,246 on CW, 23,188 on Phone and 1,516 on RTTY.

After a pause to let the finals cool down it was "once more into the breach dear friends" as the Baker and Howland (K1B) DX-pedition came on stream at the end of April and after some frantic setting up of stations were reported to have over 25,000 QSO's in the first 72 hours!

Indeed when they finished up at 18:00UTC on May 7th they are claiming 95,127 QSO's, including 5,229 on the keyboard modes of RTTY, PSK and SSTV. This which would put them in third place of overall total number of QSO's by big DX operations, only being surpassed by D68C with 168,722 contacts and ZL9CI with 96,004 QSO's. Strangely enough there is a different QSL route for the two main modes:

SSB cards go via RZ3AA while CW contacts are via YT1AD.

The planned Spratly Islands planned for April has been postponed until later in the year but that didn't stop many spots

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

appearing for XV9DT who turns out to be an op named Eddy in downtown Hanoi!

Fresh from his trip to Botswana as A25/DJ6SI, Baldur popped up once again from the self proclaimed Republic of Somaliland as 6O0X. As mentioned in a previous On The Air column this will count for absolutely nothing unless the authorities in "neighbouring" Somalia issued the call from which Baldur did operate from in June of last year as T5X.

YK1BA was Saad, N5FF, on holidays for a few weeks in Syria and proving easy to work from EI.

Going way up north some Russian ops are touring the Arctic region with R0POL coming on from the North Pole itself. QSL's go to UA6CW.

Yuri, UA9OBA, took a brief detour to give us a new IOTA in the form of R3CA/0 from Maker Island with the provisional number of AS-163.

Going to the opposite Pole there is once more an operator on Macquarie Island (AN-005) as Peter has started a years tour of duty and has been on using VK0MQI.

We also had ZL8RI on playing games and was obviously a pirate but rumours are that the Mellish gang might set their sights on the Kermadecs so all is not doom and gloom if like me you're waiting to work ZL8 land!

Moving onto the Pacific we had plenty of activity coming from the Japanese DXCC Entities of Minami Torishima and Ogasawara. These confusingly share the same prefix of JD1, so after breaking the pile-up you then have to wait to see which DXCC and if you're an IOTA chaser which Island you just worked.

Even though the Islands belong to Japan, Minami Torishima is counted as being in Oceania with the IOTA reference OC-073.

Amongst those worked were JD1/JH1EFP on the aforementioned Minami while JD1/7N4FTL and JD1/JL4CVB were both on Ogasawara.

An unusual day on the air was April 29th when you could hear nearly all of the "X" prefixed DXCC's in South East Asia on at the same time.

You had XU7ABP from Cambodia, XV3AA from Danang Vietnam, and both XW3ZNR and XW0X from Laos. All you were short to complete the quartet was someone from nearby (relatively) Macau, XX9.

Monk Apollo, SV2ASP/A, made a few rare appearances on air and even rarer

sometimes on CW. Being the only resident in a DXCC Entity can be fun at times hi!

A special event station commemorating the HMS Bounty mutiny was TX5BTY on from the Austral Islands (FO0/A) with cards going to F6CTL.

YL DXCC chasers were kept happy with JJ2KYT coming on from the Island Republic of the Maldives as 8QMI.

Lots of activity from the unusual DXCC Entity of Malyj Vysotskij (R1MV).

This is a small Island about a mile long located between Russia and Finland and is one of these strange "countries" which made it onto the list back in 1970 as a result of being a Russian Island that was leased to Finland in 1962.

Some Russian ops used it to simulate conditions for the WRTC Championship held in Finland over the same weekend as the IARU contest, where two-man teams operate from various locations, all using the same antennae, a tribander Yagi and a windom for 40/80m.

The calls R1MVC, R1MVD and R1MVF were used as well as R1MVI, also used during the IOTA contest.

The WRTC event saw the use of the OJ1-9 prefix block for the first time and great fun was to be had chasing these 100w contest stations during the IARU Contest which had the IRTS on air as EI0HQ, operators heard were Jim, EI8GS, running the call on 15m, Thos, EI2JD, running EI0HQ on 20m and Neil, EI3JE, running it on 40m, not sure who were the 10m or 80m ops but I'm sure they weren't taxed too much with pile-ups hi!

Other DX on were a group from St. Paul Island (CY9) active as CY9DH, while a large German group of DX'ers were very busy as 5K0Z from the Island Entity of San Andres (NA-033), which normally uses HK0 as its prefix.

Gus, 9U5D, took time away from the pile-ups from Burundi to check out how they sounded from nearby Democratic Republic of Congo where he used to operate as 9Q5TE but had to use the club station 9Q0AR this time around.

Also in Africa are a French group on from Benin (TY) with various calls including TY4DX, TY6FP, TY7Z and TY9F.

V63ZF is Rolf, DK2ZF, enjoying the Sun on Pohnpei Atoll (OC-010).

Plenty of activity in the IOTA programme as some new ones kept the Island chasers on their toes.

Johan PA3EXX, came on from Parrot Island in Suriname as PZ5PI (SA-092) while also getting the same reference

number but different continent, AF-092 was 3V8KO with QSL's going to I5JHW.

3G1A was on from Santa Maria Island (SA-069) but bad news for Lanny, W5BOS, who only managed two QSO's from rare Walrus Island (NA-121), part of the Bristol Bay group in Alaska, before his rig packed up!

IOTA Contest

The last weekend in July of course saw the IOTA Contest producing a plethora of Islands with EI very well represented by various groups on nearly all major inhabited off-shore Islands

Heard or worked were EI7M from Poer Head (mainland EU-115), EJ5E from Inishboffin (EU-121), EJ4F on from the Aran Islands (EU-006) and EJ3HB from Bere Island (EU-121) who unfortunately suffered some "genny" problems.

Other rare ones worked were YW1T (SA-066), OX3LG (NA-220), 5C2MI (AF-065) and E21EIC/P (AS-107).

IOTA Annual Listings

Staying with the IOTA programme the Annual Listings were published with EI's on the lists including: Peter, EI7CC with 829 Islands, yours truly EI2HY with 604, Bill EI8AU with 319, Jim EI8HA with 190 and Ger, EI2CH at 169 Islands.

Two SWL's make the list with Frances, EI-1260 at 419 and Dave, EI-982/G with 197.

Not too much in the EI2HY logbook and even less in the mail but Hugh, EI2HI, and Chuck, EI4IS, came to the rescue.

Hugh's log proves very interesting for the fact that he uses a 10m antenna, the Antron 99 vertical, to great effect on 17m with 50 watts from a Yaesu FT707. The log has DX spread all over the four corners with the likes of 4S7NE, AL2J, C6AKK, CE0Y/DM5TI, FP5AC, H7DX, J68GS, PW0T, TI9M, VK7GK, ZF2AH and ZL3NB just proving what can be done with an antenna that's not designed for the band.

Chuck on the other hand has a nice antenna, a Cushcraft X7 but it's fixed to the North North West direction which still allowed contacts with 3V8BB, PJ5/AU1ACX, PJ6/PA3GIO, TI5/VE7CC and finally Chuck reports on spending eight days to finally bag the Ducie Island, VP6DI, DX operation into the log.

(Continued on page 7)

EI8IY Silent Key



On July the 1st 2002, ham radio in EI lost one of its finest operators.

Nelius Murphy EI8IY had just been settling in to his new QTH just outside Abbeyfeale which was in Co Kerry when tragedy struck.

Nelius was a member of the Limerick radio club for a number of years and supported many of the rallies throughout the country.

His main interest in radio was data modes and he had a particular liking for SSTV and PSK31.

Nelius who was a regular caller into the IRTS news every week will be missed by all from the call-in list.

Its a sad time for his Mother and family and I'm asking you to include them in your prayers to help them come to terms with their loss.

Months mind mass was held in Abbeyfeale Convent Church at 8pm on August 1st 2002.

Charles EI5FK has opened a tribute to EI8IY page.

The address is:

<http://www.eham.net/friends/displaystory/1021>

Having a friend like Nelius was a once in a lifetime opportunity.
May he rest in peace.

Paraic EI7IR

Gene Larkin EI3K - Silent Key Tribute to a true Gentleman

Eugene Larkin, EI3K known to all as Gene, departed this life on Sunday the 19th July 2002, after a long illness.

My memories of Gene go back to the 50's and in all those years I could never find a moment that I could fault Gene for his lack of kindness, thoughtfulness and patience.

Truly he was a pleasure to know and I am proud to say I knew him. I know many others will say the same.

Having been a skilled toolmaker in his early days he was adept in home construction and loved the old values of radio, he always maintained a 4 Meter AM station, which he worked side by side with his more modern equipment.



Gene was a founder member of the Dundalk Amateur Radio Society in the 60's along with the late Bill Scully EI2I and the late Frank Meegan. Both Frank and Gene served the DARS as Hon Life Presidents.

Gene was the stabilizing nucleus of the Society over the years. Any problems that arose were always resolved in his quiet unassuming way.

Apart from his dedication and love for his wife and family, Gene had another interest other than amateur radio and that was horses. He had a genuine love for and had a wealth of knowledge on those beautiful animals. Having talked about buying or having a problem with a horse you came away totally reassured with his unassuming profound confidence.

On behalf of the Dundalk Amateur Radio Society, all who knew him and myself, thank you Gene for being you.

May you rest in peace and hopefully there will be plenty of friends and good DX for you in the future.

73 Gene
Dermot EI2AK

P.S.. Like many departed friends, I had intended to call on Gene in recent weeks...

Too late now -----DO IT !!!

Funeral mass on Tuesday 29th July, in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dundalk, was celebrated by his good friend, Rev. Pat Kelly EI5DA.

A large gathering of mourners attended the burial in Dowdall's Hill Cemetery following the Requiem Mass.

Many of Genes older colleagues commiserated with the family These included Mike Babe EI4CG, Sean Taafe EI0CP, Kieran Daly EI9DA, and Tom Mc Dermott EI9CJ.

Sympathies and a floral tribute on behalf of Dundalk Society was presented by Chairman, Thos. Cafferey EI2JD.

Sympathies and a floral tribute on behalf of IRTS was presented by Peter Grant EI4HX.

EI8IC Ham Maps Free

People might be interested to see a new type of Ham Map, now available for free on my website. It will be of use to all amateurs, whether HF or VHF based.

The problem with ordinary web-based maps is that there is either too little or too much information on the screen.

I have just completed a map of Europe, the first in a series of Overlay Maps, where YOU get to choose the amount of information you have on display.

The following overlays are available:

Country Outlines, CQ Zones, ITU Zones, Time Zones, Grid Locators, Country Names, Capital Cities, Prefixes, Flags.

You can chose which overlays are on display, the order they are displayed in, and which one is on the top.

The map can be saved in the normal manner (File>Save As) for viewing off-line, and it can be printed out with what ever overlays are active.

As the page is graphics-intensive (220kB) it takes approximately 30 seconds to load with a 56kB modem, or 1 minute with a 28.2Kb modem. A pre-

loader page is provided as an entry point. The address is <http://www.qsl.net/ei8ic/grids/euro/preload.html>

Or it can be accessed through the normal menu on my website.

IMPORTANT: THE MAP REQUIRES JAVASCRIPT TO BE ENABLED ON YOUR BROWSER.

IF YOU HAVE JAVASCRIPT TURNED OFF, IT WON'T WORK.

I welcome any comments or suggestions for other maps.

73s Tim EI8IC

www.qsl.net/ei8ic/

HF and Budget Contesting Information Site.

More maps in this series will be added as time and resources allow. It takes me about a week to make the map and its overlays. If you would like to sponsor a map in this series, order a similar map of a particular area, or need any other graphics processing or web-design (EUR80/page), please contact me.

International Space Station. (ISS)

By Thos EI2JD

The International Space Station or it's footprint passes over us every 1.5 hours. The uplink on 2 metres is 145.200 FM and the downlink is 145.800 FM.

For more information go to www.satscape.co.uk

Here you can download a programme that will tell you where the ISS and indeed where many other satellites are located at any time.

On the ISS is a Russian amateur called Valerie and he is on the microphone every day calling CQ.

Why not call in and say Hi or just listen.

At 2125 on the 1st of August I called out and to my surprise he replied.

I know many hams worked MIR in times gone by, indeed I have seen the programme on RTE about the Donegal contacts and I have also seen a QSL card on the wall of EI4DIB in Drogheda from Helen Sherman who was the first English woman in space BUT have many EI's worked ISS.

I would be interested to know who else has worked ISS and indeed I would like to see the list growing.

Special thanks to Sean EI3IP for showing me another interesting aspect to our hobby. 73's de Thos EI2JD

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Slide Rule and Abacus Exhibition.

A Slide Rule and Abacus Exhibition is being held at the ILAC Dublin Central Library during August 2002.

The exhibit includes, Slide Rules of various ages and functions, Abacuses Chinese and Japanese, a set of Napier's Bones (an early form of calculator not Napier's relics!) and various mechanical Calculators and Calculating aids.

The exhibition is educational and is meant to show a younger generation how calculation was performed prior to the electronic age.

Many of the older Radio Amateurs like myself, will have used some of these items, so there is a nostalgia element to the exhibition also.

The Exhibition is by kind permission of the Open Learning Centre at ILAC in association with Dublin Corporation.

The Content is provided by Liam EI9DVB.

The Exhibition started Saturday July 27th and will end on Saturday September 7th.

(Continued from page 5)

On The Air continued....

Up and Coming.

Not a lot happening with no major DX-peditions planned any time soon.

Yannick, F6FYD/4J0FR, and Gerard, F2VX, will be active from Baku, Azerbaijan from August 6 to 23.

Yannick will use the callsign 4J0FR (QSL via F6FYD) and Gerard will use the club station 4K7W, QSL via the operator's instructions.

Some UK young ops should be on from the Maldives (AS-013) as 8Q7ZZ by the time you read this.

Market Reef (OJ0) will once more see activity as a large group from Norway, the "QLF DX Team" have applied for the call OJ0LA from August 31st to September 7th.

That's it for this issue, thanks to the Daily DX as always, keep listening.

73 de EI2HY

Club Roundup

Amateur Radio Station at Tower Hill, Howth

At Howth, over the weekend of 29th and 30th of June an interesting commemoration took place at the Martello Tower.

Radio Amateurs set up a Special Event Station in the Tower and put up long wire antennas as Lee de Forest, an early American Radio pioneer had done at Howth in 1903.

The radio operator at Howth, almost one hundred years ago was Harry Mac Horton who sent Morse signals to another station at South Stack Lighthouse, Wales, sixty miles away across the Irish Sea to demonstrate the De Forest System to the Post Office.

Henry Pomeroy, the G.P.O.'s senior telegraph engineer came out from Dublin to monitor everything.

On the June radio weekend Joe Dillon EI4FV set up the station ably assisted by Gearoid O Laoi.

Radio operators were Joe EI7GW, Paul EI3FKB and Peadar EI2JA.

Visitors to the Station included members of the Howth Peninsula Heritage Society and especially welcome was Brian Campbell, son of the late Joe Campbell EI4B of Sutton.

Brian recalled to the Group many memories of his father's station at Sutton, such as; the joy of listening to the CW, the family gatherings at National



Howth Lighthouse

Field days, erecting beams and dealing with the aftermath of towers coming down in high winds.

Joe P. Campbell EI4B, together with Howard Duncan and Colonel Meade Dennis EI2B were founder members of the Dublin Wireless Club on the 25th of June 1913.

Brian had a special request to obtain one of his father's QSL Cards. EI4B to add to his collection of souvenirs.

Can any body help?

If so contact Joe EI4FV at QTNR.

The Station at Howth EI4LDF was a practice run for the Lee de Forest centenary celebrations which will take place next year and have been made possible through the work and cooperation of Fingal County Council, Howth-Sutton Lions Club, the Howth Peninsula Heritage Society and the Bayside Scout Radio Group.

Peadar EI2JA is looking for help from EIs who might have information about another reported Irish visit of Lee de Forest to conduct tests at Glengarriff with colleague Harry McHorton who was a proficient Morse Code Operator and reported to have erected kite antennas there and received Morse signals from New York "at 4 am on April 11 1906.

McHorton was not on site at that time. "On the return of de Forest to Castle-town 2 days later, news of his "suspicious" activities resulted in an inquiry from the RIC and he was requested to submit details of his experiments to The Postmaster General in London.

It is reported that De Forest was unable to give details of the transmitted messages as he could not read "the fist" of the sender (In the good old days 35 wpm was considered average).

The Ring of Imaal Walk

The Ring of Imaal walk, which was organised by An Oige, took place on Saturday 22nd June.

Starting in Donard, County Wicklow, the walk covers 23 miles, and takes a wide sweep around the Glen of Imaal, including the high point of Lugnaquilla, the highest mountain in Leinster.

At the request of An Oige, radio experimenters from the Dublin area provided emergency communications coverage

Six experimenters in all were involved, helping the walk headquarters to maintain an accurate picture of the location of all the walkers, and ensuring that no one went astray.

Tom EI7HT manned the base station, while those on the mountains were Gerry EI0CH, Rod EI7DF, Shay EI6EMB, Ken EI6CRB and Joe EI7GY.

Shannon Basin Radio Club

At the Annual General Meeting of the club in Roscommon, the following officers were elected :

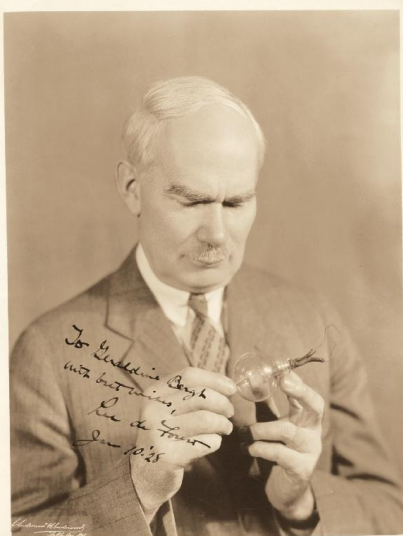
Chairperson	Padraig EI7IR
Secretary	Brian EI8IU
Treasurer	Martin EI4IJ

Our thanks go to the outgoing officers for their hard and dedicated work.

The club which has members from Roscommon, Leitrim, Longford and Westmeath came second in last years 2m Counties Contest and activated Leitrim in the Spring Counties contest.

The club meets on the first Tuesday of the month (except July & August) in The Royal Hotel in Roscommon Town at 20.20.

New members and visitors are always welcome and can get more information by contacting any of the above committee members.



Lee de Forest

Cork City Gaol and Radio Museum - EI0CRM

A permanent amateur radio station with the callsign EI0CRM has been set up in the Cork Radio Museum which is located at the Cork City Gaol Heritage Centre in Sundays Well. The station was set up and will be run by Larry O'Sullivan EI7FJB.

Cork City Gaol opened for business in 1824 and was used as a prison until 1923. When Radio Eireann was expanding in the mid 1920's the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, J.J. Walsh was a Bandon man, and it was decided to set up a broadcast station in Cork.

Broadcasting commenced in 1927 using the callsign 6CK and the studios, transmitter and aerials were all located within the old Cork City Gaol. National broadcasts were made for nearly two years but due to cutbacks programming was more or less confined to Sunday nights until the 1950's when the station moved to Union Quay in the City Centre. The broadcasting studios are fully restored and thanks to Paddy Clarke - broadcasting historian and RTE a fine display of radio artifacts from the earliest days are now on permanent display at the Cork Radio Museum.

The museum is open daily and is well worth a visit.

6 and 4 Metre Shields 2002

The 6-metre shield is now running for the third year, it has been won by Charlie EI5FK in 2000 and by Dave EI3IO in 2001. This shield has done a lot to promote 6-metre activity in EI. Rules are unchanged. It is run over a calendar year, from 1st January 2002 to the 31st December 2002.

The scoring is calculated as follows:

Unique contacts times Maidenhead locator squares times DXCC.

All modes count.

The 4 Metre Shield is offered on the same basis as the 6 metre one and is being run for the first time this year.

Both shields have been sponsored by John Corless EI7IQ.

At the end of the year, logs are to be submitted to the contest manager Noel Walsh, for both the 4 and 6 Metre Shields.

Blind and Disabled Group EI5HAM

Theory examinations took place at St. Joseph's School for Visually Impaired Boys on May 22nd and three members have been successful in obtaining the B license.

The three are;

John Doherty from Letterkenny,

Michael Heapsy from Wexford

and Bernard Reilly from Longford.

This years success brings a total of 17 new calls tutored by John EI6HL for the Group.

The Group gratefully acknowledge receipt of a Morse Code Tutor from Rob EI2IQ and 2 cassette tape players from John EI9JG to assist the boys in learning the code for the next stage of their license.

East Cork Group EI7M

The East Cork Group have not been as active as usual this year and for the first time in sixteen years failed to put a station in the CW Field Day.

However, the VHF/UHF Field Day was entered in a joint venture with the Wexford VHF Group.

A new site was used, not too far from Wexford town and all present were happy with the performance.

The section entered was the open one and stations were operated on 4, 6 and 2 metres, 70cms and 1296MHz.

The operators were Jim EI8GS, Jerry EI6BT, John EI8IR, Jeremy EI5GM, Mick EI6GF, Billy EI7FJ, John EI2FG, Neil EI3JE and Declan EI9HQ

The IOTA Contest was entered from base at Poer Head. Four members of the Bristol Contest Group visited for the event.

See report on page 13.

Members of the group were involved in the setting up and operating of the 75th anniversary station for Scouting Ireland at Kilcully Campsite in early August.

The callsign used was EI7SKC.

The 10 metre beacon on 28.209 MHz continues to be operational from Poer Head and plans are well advanced for beacons on other bands also.

The callsign is EI0TEN and the beacon keeper is Cormac EI4HQ.

XE1/EI7GK Says Thanks

Paddy EI7GK closed down his station in Mexico on Friday August 9th and packed it away for the flight home.

He would like to thank all the EI & GI stations who set alarm clocks for early morning contacts.

Paddy reports about 20 contacts into EI & GI.

He worked over 50 countries from EI to ZL and from DU to 9K.

The equipment used was a FT757 running 100W through a smart tuner into a 2 element wire beam pointing towards EI.

The XE prefix was very useful in getting through pile ups and was well worth the 84 euro for the visitors licence.

Limerick Radio Club

The Limerick Radio Club travelled to Inisheer Island from 19th to the 21st of July inclusive.

The callsign used was EJ0A.

Operation was on all bands from 80m to 2m both SSB and CW. QSL to EI8EM

Please have a look at the clubs web site for further information

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

IRTS President, Dave Moore EI4BZ was the guest at the May general meeting of South Eastern Amateur Radio Group.

At the meeting, Dave gave a talk on operating practices and discussed the different aspects of the hobby and options available to people when they get licensed.

The meeting ended with a quiz which tested members knowledge of radio and radio related topics. The club would like to thank Dave Moore for preparing the quiz and donating the prizes.

The club has now gone in to Summer recess, so there will be no more general meetings for the remainder of the summer.

General meetings of South Eastern Amateur Radio Group will resume on Wednesday the 25th of September at 8.00 p.m.

Committee members are reminded that committee meetings will continue as usual on the first Wednesday of each month at the usual venue.

Letters Page

Connector Losses

Dear OM;

I am somewhat delayed in my correspondence on this topic, but I feel it is still meaningful. After reading G8SHE's article several times, I cannot conclude if it is an 'April Fools' article or a misguided attempt to simplify a complex subject.

While changing connectors and feedline may reduce losses, it is absurd to state that the 'regained loss' (quoted in the article as 12 to 13 db) will now cause your 25 watt rig to act as a 300 watt rig! Even at zero loss, the output will not exceed 25 watts!

Furthermore, the statement that UHF connectors may exhibit up to 1 db loss at 450 Mhz is not supported by work done and published by K2RIW in the North Texas Microwave Society 'Feed-point'. K2RIW indicates that the UHF connector adds 0.024 db forward power transmission loss. There are many good reasons to avoid UHF connectors at 450 MHz, but a massive amount of loss is not one of them.

So I remain befuddled. Thanks for hearing me out.

73 - Martin Feeney K1OYB

Foundation Licence?

Dear Editor,
I have been a S.W.L. for 25 years and what a breath of fresh air to hear such great activity on 40/80/160. as a result of the introduction of the Foundation License in the U.K.

Are we going to follow suit here? or are we going to lose amateur radio to the computer/internet/cellular phone age.

How many 'hams' build or repair their own radio equipment today?

Wake up E.I. and move with the times for once, not in 20 years time when it is too late.

Regards Robert EI1343

Looking Ahead!

Dear Editor

I must confess to being continually bemused by the dated attitudes of the IRTS 'Elite'.

The paragraphs on the ODTR on page 12 of 'Echo Ireland', March/April 2002 show a lack of dedication and resolve by the committee we elected to represent our interests.

Now is the time to 'get tough' with the

licensing authority.

In my experience, changes of personnel at Civil Service departments invariably brings-up forward thinking 'new brooms' who can be willing to make radical changes quickly if 'prodded' in a progressive manner.

We should be taking advantage of the 'inconsistencies' and demand the very necessary changes that are so long overdue. You are giving us weak excuses.

I think it a fair point that, if all our officials have safely passed their licensing qualifications, might they be a little reluctant to make it easier for those of us who have not?

I am not only speaking of our 110 SWL members but also possibly, thousands of CB operators or other radio enthusiasts that could swell our ranks, given REALISTIC conditions, worthy of the 21st Century.

It was good to see that the South Dublin Radio Club has elected three SWLs to their committee, surely a breath of fresh air that is long overdue within our society ... other clubs PLEASE NOTE!

We should be making a concerted effort to encourage future licensees with, not only easier conditions but also less of the "I worked hard for it - you must work harder" attitude. The 'black box' era is here, like it or not. I can be an advanced driver with a faultless road record without having to know what's under the bonnet!

The time has come to dispense with the compulsory photograph of EI7IQ in every issue and use our newsletter to 'rally' support for a new attitude.

Come on, *real radio enthusiasts*, let's see some action and let's see it soon!

73 de Peter, EI299

Feedback

Hi Dave,

Just finished reading the "Newsletter". I won't comment on the "Bring it back" article, as I was a young squirt, tiding out WWII in Hawaii, when that came to be but it was interesting reading though, thank you.

Congratulations are due to those who garnered those awards that was listed in the newsletter. All deserve an "Atta boy" for their efforts that did pay off. They all did well.

Primarily though, this letter is to comment on the mention of the "Climbing the Pole Award" to Jeremy EI5GM. Well, yes siree, Bob.

If anyone would deserve an award, that would be it, without a doubt. Having stood beneath that beautiful monster, I know what it must have taken, to do that climb in the line of, "Someone has to do it", duty!

With that aside, I should also make comment that, indeed, if there is any kind of spirit in Amateur Radio, I wish it to be known that Jeremy is certainly one to look up to (no pun intended, mind you).

Jeremy is without a doubt, motivated in the spirit of the game.

Always pitching in at the Club, working overtime on preparing field day trips and weekend contesting events and always willing to lend a hand to the needy Ham, who needs a mite bit of help, getting that antenna or tower job done and of course, minding repairs to those antennas that are in need of attention, when utilizing a "Borrowed", field day station.

His unselfish "Can Do" attitude, is indeed one to be appreciated and is in keeping with the spirit of Amateur Radio, as I know it to be.

If and when the vote for an Outstanding Irish Amateur should come to light, please be certain to nominate his name and put it at the top of the list.

Well done.

Chuck EI4IS

Crosshaven

P.S. For those in the nearby area (Cork County), that passed out on that Dinner, you missed a great one.

Worked All Mayo Award

Dermot Adams EI7IX, is the most recent recipient of Worked All Mayo Awards certificates.

Dermot has claimed Basic, Bronze and Silver Awards, for 10, 25 and 50 of the 93 Mayo Squares.

Dermot is IRTS QSL Manager for 0, 1 and 7 series calls.

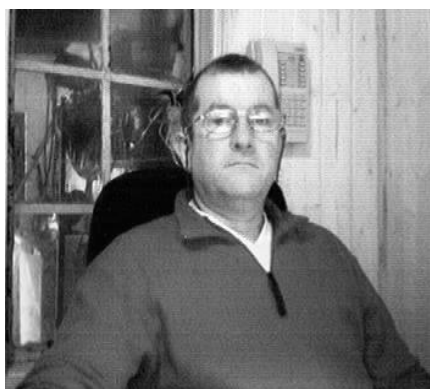
Awards are issued as follows:

Basic...10 Squares, Bronze ... 25 Squares
Silver... 50 Squares, Gold ... 75 Squares
and Platinum for all 93 Squares.

The Mayo Awards Manager is:
John Corless EI7IQ, Coolaght,
Claremorris, Co. Mayo.

Do We Ever Make Mistakes

By Ger EI8HT



If you'd just put down a week like me You'd look miserable as well.

Do we ever make mistakes? Well show me someone who says he doesn't and I will show you a liar. I once heard Billy Connelly say something like that only is he wasn't talking about mistakes.

Anyway I will admit to making mistakes, as happened lately after rebuilding the quad, I decided to put up four elements for 6 metres. To do this I had to put the driven element on the reflector side of the antenna, the 1st director on the driven side with the 2nd director suspended in mid air.

To hang the 2nd director I had like all good sailors rigged up four sky hooks, not really I was able to tie some heavy cord off the spreaders and form a square loop which was now suspended out in front of the 1st director.

I did the same with the reflector on the reflector side of the antenna.

What about the mistakes? Well all's OK so far. With my 259 analyser I was able to tune the loop to the bottom end of the band and after connecting the feed line and with the tower at 30 feet decided to check the resonant frequency from the shack.

So I unplug "A" lead from the back of the IC 746 and connect to the 259. What's happening here? I've got no dip on the analyser?

So thinking to myself I must have a bad connection on the loop, so over with the tower and remake the connection.

Back up again with the tower and once again check with the analyser.

No change. It must be the plug in the shack? So I change it, still the same.

It must be the cable? So I put a short across an old SO239 plug in the shack connect the PL259 plug, and check it with the meter from the other end and all looks OK.

I remake the connections to the loop once again checking with the analyser.

No change, so out of frustration I call in outside help. With Mike EI4HF now on the scene we did a continuity test and as it was supposed to be a closed loop? Well nothing so it must be the cable.

It was then my luck changed, not that I found the problem, I was about to change the cable when it started to rain so I finished for the day.

Next day being a Sunday and as I had other things on didn't get much of a chance to do anything in the shack. Maybe that is a good thing as it doesn't do to rush into things especially when they're not going right for you?

So a couple of days later decided it's time I did something about this problem I was having with 6 metres.

But before I started I switched on the rig to have one last look, as it happens the rig was on 2 metres, the PTT was down on the desk mike and the SWR was as they say through the roof.

Oh no, now what's wrong?

Then the penny drops. I've been testing or should I say trying to test the 6 metre antenna with the analyser connected to the 2 metre vertical.

Oh by the way, it wasn't Mike's fault that he didn't spot the problem when I handed him the cable with plug attached and said this is the 6 metre antenna.

He wasn't to know that I'd given him the wrong one.

And for my next experiment, I've been kicking about with the idea of trying to put two elements for 40 metres not as a quad, but as a beam, how I hear you say?

Well thinking to myself as I often do, and looking up at the layout of the quad, maybe just maybe I'd be able to fit the driven element on the side?

That is by running the driven element from the top of the spreader on the driven side to the top of the spreader on the reflector side, which would have been about 14 feet. The distance between the top and bottom tip of the reflectors was 22 feet., which gave me a total length of 72 feet., should do nicely? As all I was looking for was 66.5 feet. Only problem is I took those measurements from the spider on the tower and I was changing it for the old one which I had repaired and strengthened and it would only have 1 foot boom length so out the window with my original measurements as I could only manage 66 feet. Still all is not lost as I've had the spider with the longer boom (3 feet)

shortened and I will be putting it back up again. Even with the shorter boom I will still have enough length as now I'd be using 16.5 foot spreaders instead of the old 14 foot ones.

All this is for the long summer nights when they finally arrive, what am I going to do in the meantime for a 40 metre antenna? Why not fit it as a folded dipole on the reflector side of the quad?

I suppose folded dipole is the wrong description? It would be more like an opened circuit square loop cut to a dipole length. You know maybe I should patient that? Not the antenna but my description of same Hi.

Well here is where that learning curve which I'm glad to say is still climbing in an upward direction (I hope) comes into play.

I've found that in my experience of trimming and tuning wire be it bare, insulated or Noreen hanging the washing on one end of the inverted V.

All these have an effect on the length of wire you will need for both legs of your dipole. The difference between bare and insulated wire is that bare wire is about 2% longer than insulated.

Now if you fold or bend the elements then again they will need to be a little longer. I ended up with 34 feet 8 in. each leg.

But that's not the end of the saga, with my analyser I found that the best I could do was an SWR. of 2.5 to 1 and that was the resonant dip so this caused a bit of scratching of the bald patch wondering what I've done wrong?

In the end I give John (7 Bad Apples) a shout on the landline and he tells me that I've got to short a coil across the feed point.

So eight turns of stiff wire formed on a brush handle, soldered across the feed point to each side of the dipole and by opening or closing the coil I was able to get the SWR down to 1.1 to 1 at 7.040 MHz.

And how does it work? Well I've found that for local stations it's about the same as the old inverted V I was using, but for DX it is a definite improvement. I will continue to test over the coming weeks.

The goal still is to put 2 elements for 40 metres up but I'm not sure if it will be with a reflector or a director?

Guess I'll have to wait and see what kind of space I've got to play with.

For now my best to all

De Ger EI8HT.

The DDG DX Group - By Mark Condon EI7FNB

Dublin - Dundalk - Glengormley DX Group get school lessons on IOTA in Inisbofin Island

Since returning from the IOTA contest with Sean, Declan, Joe and Kohei on Inis Mor in July 2001, I have had the IOTA bug in me. At our Tuesday night meetings in South Dublin Radio Club I shared my enthusiasm for the IOTA contest with my fellow members. I knew that SDR had been a big contest club 10 or more years ago, with many successes in HF contests, but in recent years had concentrated mainly on the VHF side of contesting. While I enjoy VHF contesting, I felt that the time was right for SDR to rise again to the challenge of an international HF contest, and IOTA in my view is the best of such contests.

My lobbying paid off, and club chairman Tom EI7HT set up a separate contest committee, with me in the chair. Little did I know what was ahead of me. Originally, we set out to have a small station, with just a few operators. Then Thos EI2JD expressed an interest in being involved along with some of his Dundalk Club friends. Also, some members from our sister club GEARS (Glengormley Electronics and Amateur Radio Club) from County Antrim offered to join us.

By March of this year, it began to look as if we had a serious IOTA group in the making. We held a meeting in April, and I was astonished by the large turnout and enthusiasm from everyone. We started out with twenty members in the team, we lost only one somewhere on the way, and by the end of July, nineteen of us travelled to Inisbofin.



I know I will get into trouble by singling out someone for mention, but here goes. I have to mention Alan EI7EH, one of the SDR founder members, who researched and arranged our QTH as well as our transport, accommodation and food for the weekend. He did a fantastic job, and arranged for the school on Inisbofin to be ours for the weekend. The full list of participants is shown below. Of course everybody had a part to play in the lead up to the weekend - lining up equipment and software in advance, and helping to put it all together on Inisbofin.

Everything went smoothly for the contest. Our call sign for the weekend was EJ5E. We concentrated heavily on multipliers, and put a lot of effort into keeping track of islands worked and not worked. We also kept a close eye on the competition on nearby Inis Oirr - the EJ4F group consisting of Sean, Declan, Paul and Joe. It remains to be seen who comes out tops: if we do, I'm all of five euro richer, at Joe's expense!

We learned a lot about contesting over the weekend, and we look forward to the next contest. The new licensees in the group (most with B licences) learned a lot about HF operation and propagation. We also discovered hidden talents amongst our members, such as Jim EI4HH, who is a great singer, and Alan EI7EH, who plays a mean guitar. And much more, but the rest is a secret.

The DDG Group operating as EJ5E:

Alan EI7EH, Alan GI6IXD, Charlie GI4FUE, Daniel

EI9FHB, Dave GI3OBO, Jim EI4HH, Jim GI0BJH, Kyle EI9FGB, Mark EI7FNB, Mark EI9IB, Nicky EI9JF, Oleg UT1YZ (originally from Belarus, now lives in Dublin), Pat EI2HX, Peter EI9ES, Thos EI2JD Tom EI7HT, Tony EI7FKB, Tony EI9FIB, Tony EI9FLB.

You can see some pictures taken during the weekend on the club's web site <http://www.qsl.net/ei2sdr/>

EI0HQ in IARU HF Championships 2002

This year the Society used the special callsign EI0HQ in the IARU HF Championships held on the 13th and 14th of July.

National Society Headquarter Stations are counted as multipliers in this contest and are allowed to operate multi-multi style with a station permissible on each band and mode.

As the decision to participate was left too late, only some of the band/modes were operated.

Paul EI5DI operated on 10 metres CW while Declan EI9HQ was on 10m SSB.

Jim EI8GS was on 15 Metres SSB and Thos EI2JD and Mark EI9IB were responsible for 20 Metres SSB.

Dave EI4BZ looked after 20 Metres CW and Neil EI3JE covered both 40 and 80 Metres SSB. Paul EI5DI was on 40 Metres CW.

Jerry EI6BT looked after 80 Metres CW.

Over 4,000 QSOs were made and we look forward to a bigger and better effort. Expressions of interest would be appreciated.



EJ4F on Inis Oirr



Joe EI7GY, Paul EI5DI, Declan EI9HQ, Sean EI4GK

Having operated from Inishmore in the Aran Islands for the past three years, the EJ4GK team this year tried a new location. Some 15 kilometres southeast of Inishmore lies the smallest of the Aran Islands – Inis Oirr – and it was to this friendly isle that the group headed some days before the contest.

On this occasion the team was made up of Declan EI9HQ, Joe EI7GY, Sean EI4GK and Paul EI5DI, supported by Joe's XYL, Noreen. This year also a new callsign, EJ4F, was brought into use for the first time.

Aras Eanna, the island cultural centre, proved a welcoming and comfortable base for operations while affording plenty of space for the station's antenna

farm. Despite indifferent band conditions, the group succeeded in breaking the 2000 QSO barrier for the first time and is confident of a good showing in the final results table.



Paul O'Kane EI5DI

EJ3HB on Bere Island



Jeremy EI5GM

The EJ3HB team led by Jeremy EI5GM made the trip to Bere Island for this year's IOTA Contest. Other team members were Chuck EI4IS, Anatoly EI8JF and Dave EI9FBB

Unfortunately, the elements combined to make it a tough weekend for the group and the heavy rain and problems with the generators meant a very much curtailed effort.

EI7M in IOTA 2002

The East Cork Group EI7M returned to the IOTA contest this year and operated from the club station at Poer Head.

The team was led by Neil EI3JE and included Jim EI8GS, John EI8IR, Jerry EI6BT, Dave EI4BZ.

Four visitors from the Bristol Contest group did most of the work in setting up the station, having arrived on site on the Wednesday. They were Vic G0WKW, Howard M0XXX, Matt G7ORR and Stuart G0KDS.

While like all other groups, they found conditions not too good, they are hopeful of surpassing the existing EI record set by EI1DD.

The only problems encountered over the weekend were computer networking related.

EI All Time IOTA Records

(Up to and including 2001)

Category	Callsign	QSO's	Multipliers	Points	Year	Posn
Multi-Operator	EI1DD	2,312	400	5,715,600	2000	11th
Single-Op, 24 Hour-Mixed	EI5DI	1,052	190	1,243,718	1999	2nd
Single-Op, 24 Hour-CW	EI4BZ	660	115	477,480	2001	16th
Single-Op, 24 Hour-SSB	EI8IR	1,842	223	2,222,418	2001	4th
Single-Op, 12 Hour-Mixed	EI5DI	567	84	260,820	2001	8th
Single-Op, 12 Hour-CW	EI4DW	370	71	170,826	2001	32nd
Single-Op, 12 Hour-SSB	EI7GL	424	151	612,456	2001	8th

Down Memory Lane

By Tony Breathnach (EI5EM)



Some time ago I wrote an article for the IRTS Newsletter based on an old 1948 edition of the same Newsletter.

I gave a brief overview of the articles contained in that edition. I also took the opportunity to contrast the contents of the 1948 edition with the contents of the current edition of what will always be known to me as the IRTS Newsletter, regardless of the title on the front cover.

The Enniskillen show followed shortly after publication of my article and while in Enniskillen I received verbal comments on my views of the current state of our hobby. Some comments were supportive of my views while others were very critical of them.

However, I am not going to revisit that topic today. Suffice to say that I received no correspondence from EI on the article, although I received two nice emails from abroad.

One email was from Rob Mannion G3XFD, the editor of Practical Wireless. Rob was very kind in his comments. Rob said that he really looks forward to receiving and reading the IRTS Newsletter or Echo Ireland as he referred to it.

The second email was also from outside EI. It was from Bill Rothwell VE3FGW. Bill was licensed as EI5X in 1948 before emigrating to Canada.

You may recall in my earlier article that I mentioned the IRTS dinner in Jury's Hotel in 1948. Well would you believe that Bill still has the menu,

signed by all present?

He kindly sent me a photocopy, which appears on the opposite page.

The quality is not great but still well worth inclusion.

George Reynolds EI2F, Michael Collins EI3N, Jim Browne EI7M, Harry Wilson EI2W, Aidan Folan EI5W, Ian Morris EI6U, Brian Fogarty EI6X, Bill Rothwell EI5X, R. Sadler EI4D, Denis Kelly EI3G, Bob Stanton EI8Q, P. Daly EI5G, Tom Green EI9N, W. McIlwaine EI9F, J. Campbell EI4B of whom I heard mention on the Radio News only today.

There are also some other calls but I cannot decipher the calls or the names from the photocopy.

Among these are GI3ZX, GI2HLT, GI5HV, EI8T, EI8G, GI5SJ, EI9R and GW2CCV and some SWLs.

I had the pleasure of having QSOs with EI4S, EI2W and EI9N.

As well as sending me the menu, Bill also sent me photocopies of some Field Day photographs. I have scanned these and hope they reproduce well in the Newsletter.

The two photographs are from National Field Day in July 1954. The location is Waterford.

The first photograph shows Bill Rothwell EI5X, Phil Fitzsimons EI5P and Harry Dumpleton EI4S.



The other shows Harry and Bill again. Bill could not identify the others in the group.

Note the equipment in use and the 120 Volt DC Ever Ready dry battery. These batteries were made up of eighty 1.5 Volt cells wired in series. You could tap off voltages at various voltages between 0 and 120 Volts with these batteries. They were also known as a Winner battery. I used one of these with the first RX I ever built. It was a regenerative one valve receiver (Tungsram LD210) with plug-in Denco coils. It was known as the HAC (Hear All Continents).

A 3 Volt battery was also required for the valve filament. I constructed this about 1964 or so and did indeed Hear All Continents with the uncomfortable 2000-Ohm headphones.

Sorry for reminiscing and digression. Bill also sent me a cutting from a newspaper in 1953.

The photograph is from Field Day in July 1953 at Dun Laoghaire and is reproduced below.

I want to thank Bill for taking the trouble of sending these items from a bygone era.

It's all part of the history of the hobby in EI.

If Bill can get the original menu scanned I will send the image to the editor for inclusion in the IRTS Newsletter at a later date.

73 de Tony EI5EM
(ei5em@eircom.net)

(c) 2002

"Hams" Have Mealtime Break



A mealtime picture from the Irish Radio Transmitters' Society Field Day at Dun Laoghaire yesterday. Included are: Dr. T. D. O'Farrell (President), Mr. T. J. Green (Vice-President), Capt. A. C. Woods (Hon. Sec.), Mr. A. K. Jackson, Mr. J. Reynolds, Messrs. A. Ambrose, B. King, W. Rothwell and T. Gallivan.

4 Metre Activity Evening

Calling all 4 meter operators.

In the interests of generating some activity on the 4 meter band there will be a call in on 70.2625 MHz. on the first Tuesday of every month. The first 4 meter activity evening started at 2000 on the 4th of June.

Whether you have AM, FM or SSB gear, use vertical or horizontal polarization, give a call in.

Even if you do not have access to 4 meter gear SWL reports would be most welcome, e-mail EI3IX at joe.fadden@yahoo.com

2 meter SSB activity

Anyone interested in 2 meter SSB activity? If so there is a call in every week after the Sunday 11 o'clock I.R.T.S. news, on 144.300 MHz. Again it does not matter whether your antenna is horizontal or vertical, just give a call and lets try and get some activity going on this mode.

The squares table is up and running again this year, anyone working DX on any of the VHF/UHF bands please forward their totals for inclusion on this table. The table will be published in each edition of the newsletter and anyone looking for the up to date scores will find them on EI7GL's web page at

<http://www.qsl.net/ei7gl>

Thanks to John for including the table on his homepage.

Joe, EI3IX
IRTS VHF Manager

Cork Repeater Group held it's AGM on Tuesday 19th of February. The venue was Wilton Park House, Cork. A good crowd reviewed the past year and some discussion was had on plans for the future.

Subscriptions remain are €20 and can be paid to John Mooney
EI6AK.

The following Officers were elected:

Chairman	Mike Kiely EI2IB
Secretary	Jim Barry EI8GS
Treasurer	John Mooney EI6AK
Tech Manager	Tony Bourke EI2CV

Committee:

Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY, Vincent Long EI5IO, John Hearne EI2FG

**All from Limerick:
EI5FOB, EI4IU, EI7FHB**

Photo EI5FK



Contest Corner

With
Dave EI4BZ
ei4bz@eircom.net

CQWW SSB 2001 - EI Scores

Section	Callsign	Points	QSOs	Zones	Countries
Low Power 10m	EI4CF	204,792	689	29	109
Low Power 20m	EI8IC	230,184	1191	31	108
Assisted 10m	EI4DW	472,512	1516	29	109
Multi Single	EI7M	9,563,686	6586	153	605

ARRL 10 Metre Contest December 2001

The results for the 2001 ARRL 10m Contest have just been released, and are available on EI8IC's Contesting Website www.qsl.net/ei8ic/

There were 7 EI entries this year, fairly balanced among the classes, though no CW or QRP entries are posted. Ireland seems to lack QRP operators in most of the big contests; lets hope its not that they just aren't sending their logs in.

Special mention goes to EI5DI, who entered in the Mixed mode, low power class, and fought his way to a staggering 1,025,200 points, a new Irish record in recent years and a score that took him to 3rd in the World Mixed Mode Low Power Category. Well done, Paul.

During the height of the sunspot cycles, the ARRL 10 Meter Contest has proven to be among the most popular operating events. The band may be losing some of its magic (after all, we are on the downside of the current sunspot cycle), but there should still be some exciting propagation for the 2002 event. Tune in December 14-15, work everyone you hear, and don't forget to send your logs in, no matter how small! As a single band event, you only need one aerial and it doesn't have to be a monster: in 2000, EI8IC beat the competition using a single fixed wire delta loop at 50 feet !

Callsign	Points	QSOs	Mults	Section
EI5DI	1,025,200	1482	200	Mixed mode, low power
EI2JC	48,048	159	88	Mixed mode, low power
EI4DW	489,808	998	184	Mixed mode, high power
EI7DJ	485,676	1432	162	Mixed mode, high power
EI4CF	120,904	516	119	Phone only, low power
EI8IR	480,912	1876	129	Phone only, high power
EI8GS	442,260	1781	126	Phone only, high power

Thanks to Tim EI8IC and Joe EI7GY for the information.

Welcome to another edition of Contest corner.

The spring Counties Contest results appear on the opposite page and make interesting reading. In the high power portable section, the Dundalk and South Dublin clubs had a rare old battle with the experience of the Dubs just doing the business. I look forward to their next outing.

The low power portable was the best supported section and I am delighted to have come out on top in that competitive section. It made the long trip to the Slieve Blooms well worthwhile even if I did find SDR already set up where I had planned to operate from!

It was great to see so many clubs getting involved. Maybe those with large numbers could split their forces and put on a few additional stations.

You may not read this before the Autumn leg of the Counties contest so hope we had another good turnout.

CW Field Day 2002

Congratulations to Joe Ryan EI7GY who won the Restricted Section in the recent CW Field day.

Joe operated portable from Knockadreet, Co. Wicklow and had 223 QSO's making a total of 801 points.

Congratulations also the EI9E group who won the open section operating portable from Murrinstown, Co. Wexford.

Operators on the team were Dave EI4BZ, Billy EI7FJ and Mick EI6GF. Their score was 1506 points from 456 QSO's.

A serious lightening storm badly hampered both stations but the weather conditions were quite good otherwise.

IOTA Contest

There was good interest once again in the IOTA Contest held at the end of July.

Three groups made the trips to islands and competed for the IRTS IOTA Cup (donated by EI5DI).

Sean Donelan EI4GK with new recruit the aforementioned Paul EI5DI travelled to the smallest of the Aran Islands with a four man crew and reported no major problems and a good score.

A major coalition of East Coast operators headed to Inishboffin (see page 12) with a mixed crew of 19. They had a very successful outing and should have a good score.

Jeremy EI5HB led a four man team to Bere Island but had all kinds of problems leading to an early wind up of the operation..

On the mainland, the Mayo Group were heard and the East Cork Group decided not to travel and operated from the comfort of Poer Head.

All the usual single operators were heard about the bands and we look forward to seeing a few new EI records when to results are announced.

Conditions were not very good but there did seem to be a lot more multipliers available with over 200 being reported as appearing on the Cluster networks.

We await the results with interest.

EU SPRINT 2002

In 1994 the EU Sprint Gang (I2UIY, OK2FD, DL6RAI, and G4BUO) organized the first European Sprint contests. For 2001 there have been some rule changes, introducing an awards programme and bringing the Spring Sprints forward in the calendar. You can find past scores and other information about the sprints by visiting the official EU Sprint web site at this address: <http://loja.kkn.net/~i2uiy/>.

The BIG news is that now we will award a certificate to the winners in each country but this is not all. Three nice plaques will be awarded for the top three scores from all four contests combined. Therefore, please red circle the two EU Sprint Saturdays on your calendar, we will be looking for on October 5th.

EU SPRINT 2002

The EU Sprint Gang hereby invites you to participate in the two remaining European Sprint Contests held in 2002. **ENTRANTS:** any licensed station may enter the Sprint. European stations can work everybody; stations outside of Europe can work only European stations.

CATEGORIES: Single Operator ONLY. Only ONE signal may be aired at one time.

DATES:

EU SPRINT Autumn:

SSB: first Saturday in October -

5 October 2002 - managed by I2UIY

CW: second Saturday in October - 12 October 2002 - managed by OK2FD

TIME: from 15:00 UTC until 18:59 UTC.

BANDS: 20, 40 and 80 metres only.

Pilot frequencies are: SSB: 14.250, 7.050, 3.730. CW: 14.040, 7.025, 3.550

EXCHANGE: all of the following data MUST BE PART OF THE EXCHANGE:

- your callsign,
- the other station's callsign,
- your serial number starting from 001 (RST not required),
- your name or nickname.

Please note that BOTH stations MUST repeat BOTH callsigns DURING the exchange.

A valid exchange is: "OK2FD de I2UIY 118 Paolo" while "OK2FD 118 Paolo" is NOT a valid exchange.

SPECIAL QSY RULE: if any station initiates a call (by sending CQ, QRZ?, etc.), he is permitted to work ONLY one

Spring 2 Meter Counties Contest 2002

Note:-Scores indicated are the scores after scrutiny and may differ from claimed scores

High Power Fixed	Test QTH	QSO's	Counties	Score
Mark Boothman EI9IB	KE	29	16	2012
Clifford Beck EI5FQB	OY	18	11	649

High Power Portable

South Dublin R.C. EI2SDR	LS	70	18	5994
Dundalk A.R.S. EI7DAR	LH	72	19	5795

Low Power Fixed

Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI	CK	15	5	120
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Low Power Portable

Dave Moore EI4BZ	OY	47	19	3819
Denis O'Flynn EI6HB	WT	50	17	3135
South Eastern A.R.G. EI2WRC	KK	52	15	2955
Joe Fadden EI3IX	MO	47	16	2736
Shannon Basin R.C. EI2SBC	LM	32	15	2145
Paul Hurley EI2JF	CW	22	15	1650
Peter Grant EI4HX	LH	29	10	1060
Tipperary A.R.G. EI7TRG	TS	34	11	847

FM Only

Niall Foley EI4CF	GY	32	16	2064
Eamonn Kavanagh EI3FFB	TS	30	16	1376
John O'Sullivan EI6ARB	D	42	11	1210
John Edgeworth EI6IW	TN	30	12	1080
Padraig O'Meachair EI7GK	LK	19	8	528

station on the same frequency. He must thereafter move AT LEAST 2 (two) kHz before he may call another station or before he may solicit again (CQ, QRZ?, etc.) other calls.

VALID CONTACTS: valid contacts are QSOs correctly logged and confirmed.

Each operator may use ONE and ONLY one name during the Sprint. If the exchange is copied incorrectly, that operator will receive zero (0) points.

In case of miscopied callsigns, both stations will receive zero (0) points for that QSO.

SCORING: each valid QSO counts one 1 (one) point. The final score is the total number of QSOs.

AWARDS: Colourful certificates will be issued to the winners of each Sprint, and to the leaders in each country.

A **special plaque** will also be awarded for the top three scores from all four contests combined. To be eligible for this award an operator must enter at least three of the Sprints in the year. Results will be forwarded as soon as possible to Leagues, magazines and bulletins.

LOGS: a single chronological log is

required. Please send us your log via email or on a floppy disk, if you use computer for logging. Use any of the available software or send a plain ASCII file. A separate summary sheet is also required. Please send us the right files: for DL2NBU software, send yourcall. ASC; for N6TR software, send yourcall. DAT; for IK4EWK software, send yourcall.DBF.

If you want the latest release of the DL2NBU software, you can download it from the EU Sprint web site:

<http://loja.kkn.net/~i2uiy/>.

Log files must be sent NO LATER than 15 days after the contest to:

eusprint@kkn.net. The receipt of your electronic log will be confirmed.

If you do not receive a confirmation within two days, try again or use postal system.

Disk logs, or paper entries must be posted NO LATER than 15 days after the contest to the appropriate address:

Autumn SSB Sprint: Paolo Cortese, I2UIY, P. O. Box 14, 27043 Broni (PV), Italy.

Autumn CW Sprint: Karel Karmasin, OK2FD, Gen. Svobody 636, 674 01 Trebic, Czech Republic.

EI2JF/Aeronautical Mobile..... Well Almost.

Echo India Bravo Juliet Mike, cleared take off 29 wind 290, 08 knots. Power Checks complete I push the throttle and try to keep the Cessna 152 straight as she accelerates down the runway. It is 50 Knots and I ease on the control column to bring this 22 year old skyward.

We are already at 600 ft and climbing at around 70 knots as my instructor guides me to fly the aircraft up the coast towards Drogheda. The aircraft buffets around slightly as the wind strikes the fuselage. The first time this happens you get scared (But its nothing like the Megadrop or Disco Waltzer in Funderland)

Once we are airborne and at 1000 feet, I bring the engine RPM to 2250 (i.e. cruising speed). The aircraft is trimmed to fly in a level attitude, *who said you need auto-pilot*, although if improperly trimmed you could be fighting the controls akin to the Hollywood Blockbusters.

Already we are at Balbriggan and exiting the control zone (the area where you are under the direct control of ATC). I apply full power to climb up to 1,500 feet. The instructor then does some air exercises, showing the effects of slow flight yet keeping the aircraft above the stalling speed, i.e. 44 knots.

After the exercises the nose is lowered (to my relief) and BJM settles down to a more level attitude. The control zone is re-entered at Balbriggan where the altitude is now 1000 feet, and are under the control of Dublin Tower where they instruct us to Broadmeadows, (the sword end of the Malahide estuary).

I call the tower to instruct them we are overhead Broadmeadows, The response is we are cleared to finals runway 29 which is close to the FLS hangar. Landing Checks are then followed

through. first stage flaps are down at 10°, as our speed gradually comes down to 60 knots.

The instructor then straightens up for finals and the Tower has cleared us to land. The aircraft glides over the thresholds and holds for a moment as if we are on a bed of air, the nose is slightly rosed, bump as our main wheels touch the concrete. The nose is still held up to reduce the speed even more then our nosewheel makes contact. The amazing thing is that this has all happened in the time it took me to write this paragraph.

We are cleared off the runway, as we taxi to our parking space beside the Aer Lingus Commuter Hangar, (also known as Venair, where Larry Goodman has his jet also). I run the engine idle for a minute to allow the engine to cool, then shut down.

All checks are then completed and the aircraft is chocked and tied down as a stray airplane can do dangerous things to man and machine. Now its to the clubhouse for a coffee and to fill in the log-book. That's the end of another session and 40 minutes to add to my total time.

In summary if you have never been up in a little plane, I would thoroughly recommend it. In fact a number of years ago, one of the members in my Flying Club became the oldest man to go solo in a helicopter at the age of 82.

Book a trial flight and you will get a chance to take the controls etc.

On a similar matter if there are amateurs currently involved in aviation I would like to hear from you. I know of a number, but you could be one that has been very quiet.

P.S., some of the speeds are approximate, so bear with me on that one.

Please contact me at 087-2756320 or ei2jf@qsl.net.

Reading the Mail

By
Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #19 of "Reading the Mail" – an account of IRTS QSL Bureau activity from 16 March to 26 April 2002.

During the time small packets of cards (less than 1 kilo) came from ARABiH, ARUK, IARC, JARL, KARS, and LABRE Fortaleza, OVSV, RCP Panama, VK5-buro.

In addition larger parcels from BFRA, UBA/VERON, RAC (2 kilos each), ARRL and RSGB (4 kilos each), kept up the numbers of cards.

While sorting the cards the following were noticed and thought worthy of mention: A52A, VU3MCV, YU8/9X0A, 5A24PA, 5H3KA, 7Q7KZ, and 9AY2K.

Also very obvious was the large number of cards reflecting activity on 50MHz with many different areas of Canada and the USA.

As well as cards from many Croatian and Russian islands, for island chasers the following were noticed:

FO0FLA, HR6/WA9YYY, JR6EA, KH0/JN1WTK, LZ3FN/1, N2US/p, OZ0A, R6/UR3IFD/p, VK9LO, VK9XV, WC6DX, YW7C, 3D2NV, 4M1X, and 4M7X.

Congratulations to all concerned. For now, all best wishes and lots of good DX.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL.

Outgoing QSL Bureau

Cards for the outgoing bureau should be sent to
The Outgoing QSL Manager

Hugh O'Donnell, EI2HI
Baurleigh,
Bandon,
Co. Cork.



Squares Table 2002

Callsign	2m	4m	6m	70Cm	23Cm	Total
EI2FSB	46	7	236	2	0	291
EI2JD	13	0	229	3	0	245
EI6IZ	1	1	242	1	0	245
EI3IX	8	1	209	2	0	220
EI7BFB	15	0	173	0	0	188
EI7GL	10	4	170	2	0	186
EI5FK	1	0	168	0	0	169
EI3EBB	6	0	98	1	0	105
EI7IX	4	0	48	1	0	53
EI9IW	2	0	51	0	0	53
EI4IX	50	0	0	0	0	50
EI7FNB	1	0	41	0	0	42
EI7FAB	1	3	1	1	0	6

Square table updates should be sent to EI3IX at
joe_fadden@yahoo.com



Dundalk Amateur Radio Society

EI2JD, MI3TVI and MI3SBI at the Spring Counties Contest

Contest Calendar

September

31/1st	1200-1200	YO DX HF	SSB
7/8th	1300-1300	IARU Region 1 Field Day	SSB
7/8th	10000-2359	All Asia DX	SSB
14/15th	0001-2359	Worked All Europe	SSB
21/22nd	1200-1200	Scandinavian Activity Contest	CW
28/29th	1200-1200	Scandinavian Activity Contest	SSB
28/29th	0001-2359	CQ/RJ Worldwide RTTY DX Contest	RTTY

October

5th	1500-1859	EU Autumn Sprint	SSB
6th	0700-1900	RSGB 21/28MHz	SSB
5/6th	0800-0800	Oceania DX	SSB
12/13th	0800-0800	Oceania DX	CW
12th	1500-1859	EU Autumn Sprint	CW
19/20th	1500-1500	Worked All Germany	CW
20th	0700-1900	RSGB 21/28MHz	CW
26/27th	0001-2359	CQWW DX	SSB
26/27th	0001-2359	10-10 International QSO party	CW

Scouting Ireland CSI - 75th Anniversary Camps

Three special event stations EI7SLH, EI7SMM and EI7SKC were QRV during the past week at the Larch Hill, Mount Mellary and Kilcully Scout Campsites.

Amateur Radio was included in the programme for Scouts participating in the three camps and Scouts and Leaders alike showed great interest, particularly in ATV.

Scouting Ireland CSI wishes to thank members of the Amateur Television Club, Cork Radio Club, East Cork Amateur Radio Group, North Dublin Radio Club, South Dublin Radio Club and the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group together with Ger EI8HT and Bob EI7AF who assisted the Camps, with the loan of equipment, erection of antennas and operation of the Special Event Stations and all those amateurs who QSO'ed with Scouts during the past week.

The next date on the Radio Scouting calendar is Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) which will take place on the 19th and 20th October.

Radio Amateurs or Clubs requiring information on JOTA can contact the CSI National JOTA Organiser, Sean EI3IP at QTHR or via e-mail.

E-mail addresses are available on the news page of the IRTS website.

I.R.T.S.

Radio News Service

Input for the radio news
should be sent to:

Mark Wall EI7IS
22 Sunshine Crescent, Waterford
086-6302026

ei7is@qsl.net
or
Cyberis@e-merge.ie

Deadline

2100 on Tuesdays
for the following Sunday

International Pharmacists Ham Group

The I.P.H.G. results from an idea of Andrea Pagliula, IZ7ECB and Pier Luigi Anzini, IK2UVR. Andrea.

In early days of March 2002, they made a search on QRZ.COM inserting the key-word "Pharmacist".

The search gave him many call-signs of OM's Pharmacists. Andrea sent them all an e-mail with the intention to make a Web Site where to list all HAM Pharmacists over the world.

He got many e-mails in return, in one of them Pier Luigi told him it would have been nice to create a Ham Group open to all Pharmacists over the world and he was disposed to create a proper Web Site. After some trials, the Web Site was built, with a proper logo, a forum, and a page for each member. Recently the Site has moved on a new and stronger server.

The original members were about 20, and many other still are joining the Group, from all the continents.

We would like to inform your members about I.P.H.G. by an article on your journal and by your links.

Best regards

73 de Andrea Pagliula IZ7ECB,

IPHG # 001,

Supervisor

International Pharmacists Ham Group

www.malpena.it/iphg/index.htm

SDR Exam Success

Congratulations are due to seven members of South Dublin Radio Club who passed their theory examination recently.

The seven are:

Tony Ryan

Matthew O'Brien

Nicky Mullally

Tony Byrne

Daniel Cussen

Kyle O'Connell

Mick Gorman

All have been attending the classes held over the past few months that were presided over by Jim Holohan EI4HH and Tommy Griffin EI9BTB. Most of those who passed are on the right side of 30, and one is just 16 years old - encouraging evidence that young people are still interested in taking up amateur radio.

The SDR members would like to thank Tony Fay of North Dublin Radio Club, who made the arrangements for the examination to take place.

Belgian Amateur to join International Space Station

Belgian Radio Amateurs are happy to announce that the country's second astronaut to go into space is an Amateur Radio Operator.

Frank De Winne, ON1DWN, will enter space and join the International Space Station at the end of October this year.

Enthusiastic Radio Amateurs of the City Sint-Truiden (RST), members of the Union of Belgian Amateurs, (UBA) did some research & established that it was possible for Frank to have a QSO with students during school contacts, fitting in the ARISS program, once he obtained the correct permit.

Plans were made and then suddenly needed to be accelerated as the mission, which had been planned for a few years hence was suddenly brought forward to the end of October this year.

Despite the fact that no amateur radio operation was initially scheduled for this mission, Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, Chairman of Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, (ARISS-Europe) and formal chairman of the Union of Belgian Amateurs have organized a contact with the Royal Technical School of Saffraanberg (Airforce).

There may be other opportunities for operators to make contact with the mission and UBA/ RST and ARISS invite amateurs to listen out during the ODIS-SEA mission.

A full color QSL Card is available and is to be used only for this mission with Frank De Winne, ON1DWN.

Cards from Amateur Operators or Short Wave Listeners should be sent via the bureau or direct to:

Tania Petré ON7AQ

Kerkom Dorp 100

B-3800 Sint Truiden

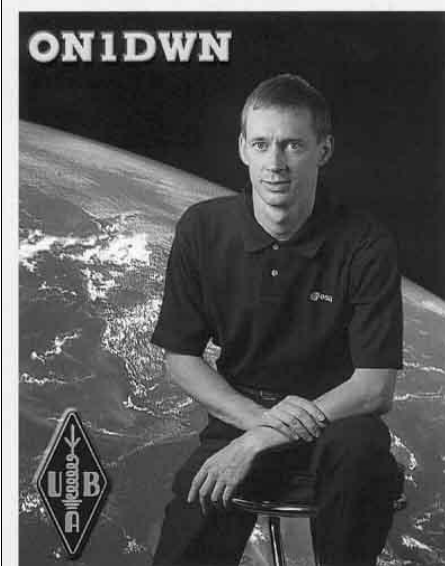
Belgium

Those wishing to receive a QSL card direct should enclose a self-addressed envelope, stamped or enclosing one US Dollar or one International Reply Coupon.

For more information regarding the exact dates and hours of the flight, which are not available at this time, we invite you to come and see our website:

<http://www.qsl.net/on4rst/frame.html>.

John EI2GN



Jamboree On The Air

The next date on the Radio Scouting calendar is Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) which will take place on the 19th and 20th October.

Radio Amateurs or Clubs requiring information on JOTA can contact the CSI National JOTA Organiser, Sean EI3IP at QTHR or via e-mail.

Sean O'Suilleabhain at ei3ip@qsl.net or 087-232 6994

Inishkea South Island at last!

By Joe Fadden EI3IX

This is the trip I was beginning to think would never happen after 4 failed attempts !, but it eventually did on Sunday, 4th August.

The Geraghty's (Boat owners) rang at 21.30 to confirm that the forecast for the morning was "flat calm weather conditions". However the final decision to go was not made until 22.30 Saturday night.

Again I thought it was going to fall through, this time the weather was not going to be the cancelling factor, it was operator related as neither Enda EI3IS, nor Dermot EI6DZ could make it on this occasion. However Martin Conway (SWL) from Westport came along to help out with carrying some of the gear.

We arrived on Inishkea south Island at about 11.30, and were set up to operate from F52, IO44VC in one of the ruined houses at 12.10. The rig used was a Yaesu FT100, auto-tuner was a Yaesu FC-20, running 60W from a sealed lead acid battery into a G5RV.

I brought a Honda 1000w generator, inverted type (Switch mode) with me for the trip, along with a sealed lead acid battery 17A/hr. The battery was to be used for the hike down to the south square but the generator gave me a lot grief with QRN signal 7, this of course wiped out all weak signal stations, so I had to use the battery right from the start. As a result I dropped the power back to 60W from the original 100w to conserve battery Power.

A total of 17 stations were worked from F52 on 7.068MHz. We were QRV from F52 until 13.00.

At this point I disassembled the station and we travelled the 2Km by hoof! south to F51.

We arrived in F51 at 14.00 approx.

A total of 21 stations were worked from F51 on 7.068MHz.

Stations from EI, MI, M, MW, MM & LA were worked. HF conditions did not seem to be good, originally I thought it was my station set up, most stations were weak enough, more peaked at 5/9 then dropped down to 5/1.

When all were worked on 7.068 I tuned up on 21.265MHz & 21.317MHz, although I called CQ there were no replies, and all heard were so weak, they were unworkable.

Once all had been worked on HF we hiked back to F52 to set up for VHF/UHF. We set up for 50MHz, 70MHz, 144MHz & 430MHz, unfortunately nothing heard on any of these bands !!! It was not doubt my location as I could not open any of the repeaters Mayo, Galway nor Limerick.

I was using Maspro Yagi's for 144 & 430, a vertical was used for 70MHz, the G5RV tuned up (just about) for 50MHz, but nothing heard.

This was very disappointing because I have activated 91 out of the 93 Mayo WAI squares to date. Of these only F51 & F52 have not given me a VHF station in the log !.

I just want to thank everyone who worked me. There was little or no notice given on this occasion as it was a last minute decision to go. Having said that I will be back on Inishkea, hopefully next year.

Plans are at an advanced stage for Blackrock, Mayo F41.

A trip by helicopter before the end of the year is on the cards, but the notice will be very short if all works out !!!

Stay tuned to 7.068MHz

Regards,
Joe, EI3IX/EJ3IX



Pictured at the Limerick Rally

Top: Gary O'Hanlon EI3EVB from Waterford

Bottom: Jackie Buckley EI9EJ from North Kerry.

Photos EI5FK

**Cork Radio Club
EI5CRC**

Annual Rally

**Blarney Park
Hotel
Blarney,
Co. Cork**

**Sunday September
29th 2002.**

**Contact Dick EI6HH
on 021-45455154**



**Dundalk
Amateur Radio Society**
Members of the Dundalk
Amateur radio Society who
took part in the IRTS Spring
2 Metres Counties Contest
2002.

4 Meter activity period

April 1st 2002

Report by Joe EI3IX

It was planned at short notice to have a 4 meter activity period on Easter Monday straight after the 2M county contest at 1600.

It was a good idea seeing that quite a number of experimenters go to the trouble of operating portable.

Carrying an extra rig or transverter should not present that much of a problem.

The calling frequency was to be 70.262.5Mhz.

Modes of operation: F3E, A3E or J3E, horizontal or vertical polarization.

There were a number of stations active around EI, G, GI, & GW. The ones that I know of were:

GW8ASA, Gordan was operating from IO81GN but heard nothing coming from EI land.

MI0APE, from Belfast was running a Yaesu FT847 (25 watts) into a 5 element Yagi (Horizontal polarization) at 60ft.

G4YTL, David was on frequency, no report back as yet.

EI7GL, John was using a slim Jim vertical antenna at 22ft AGL. He worked Willy EI7CGB in Cork city & EI3EBB in Kilkenny.

EI4HX/P, Peter was operating from Co. Louth using A3E, he made a total of 2 contacts, one of which was in MI land with GI3TIJ.

EI3EBB, no report as yet.

EI7CGB, Willy from Cork city worked EI7GL, he was running a Yaesu FT847 into a 6 element Yagi (Horizontal polarization).

EI3IX was portable from Croagh Patrick, IO53ES, (2510ft). He was running a Philips FM1000 rig (25 watts), FM only into a Moonraker half wave vertical antenna.

This was the **first time** 4 meters was activated on Croagh Patrick.

He made 5/9 contacts with EI7IQ & EI7FAB/P and he also heard EI4HX/P calling but it was a weak signal.

EI7FAB/P was portable from high ground just outside Kiltimagh, IO53LU.

John was running an AKD 4001 rig (25 watts) into a Moonraker 5 element Yagi antenna (horizontal polarization). John worked EI7IQ & EI3IX/P.

EI7IQ was operating from his home QTH, IO53LT. He was running a Philips FM1000 rig (25 watts) into a home made dipole antenna.

Joe, EI3IX

Members Advertisements

For Sale: AR8600 fitted with voice inverter board.
New, still in box.
061-397004

For Sale: 4 Element 20m Monoband Cushcraft Yagi.
Yaesu FL2100 HF Amplifier
Yaesu FT12 Power Supply 12-15 Amps
Super Star 10m Mobile Rig
Yaesu 2m Memoriser mobile rig
Several small PSUs, 7 and 3 amp.
14" B&W Monitors and CCTV cameras
0405-41535 or 086-8797602

For Sale: Yaesu FT-1000MP AC model, 1800 euro ono
ei8ja@qsl.net - 087-9437500.

For Sale: Optoelectronics Scout 40: Frequency Counter/
Sniffer PWO, 325 ONO, John EI7IG, 086-8167310.

For Sale: FT101ZD, recently serviced in the U.K. new tubes
and in perfect working order. 500euro.
Further details phone 087-2904243 or
e-mail<rmuir@eircom.net>

For Sale: Kenwood TS130SE HF Transceiver 100W solid
state 200Euro
Icom IC211 2M multimode base transceiver 10W 320Euro
Contact Jeremy EI5GM @ 021-4774955 or 086-2684993

Wanted: - Information Re, vintage radios - diagrams, valves,
parts, etc
Phone Marc Gannon 094 64144

For Sale: Yaesu FT847 HF/6/4/2/70 with auto ATU, VHF-
UHF splitter, extra filter. Boxed.
Bearcat UBC780XLT
Trunk Traker 111 Boxed.
Four genuine Canon BC1-21 Black Ink cartridges.
Realistic 2035 Scanner, Hypersan.
061-397004

VP8THU South Sandwich Islands DXpedition

The video of this DXpedition is now available
from Declan Craig EI6FR,
Price 20 Euro, including post & packing.

The VP8GEO - South Georgia video will be out shortly.

Declan also holds stocks for the following Dxpeditons:
ZL9CI - Campbell Island
VK0IR - Heard Island
FO0AAA - Clipperton
A52A - Bhutan
all at 20 Euro

SOTA - Summits on the Air

SOTA is a new programme designed to encourage amateur radio operation from the summits of hills and mountains, in the same way



as the IOTA programme is aimed at encouraging the activation of islands.

A SOTA Management Team has been set up, and SOTA Associations have been established in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Italy. An association is in the process of being formed in Greece.

Full details of the programme, along with reference manuals for each Association are on the SOTA web site at <http://www.sota.org.uk/>

Associations are often divided into Regions, each of which covers a distinct geographic or geological area.

There are three classes of participant in the programme - Activators (who climb the summits and activate them), Chasers (who contact the activators) and SWLs (who log QSOs between activators and chasers).

Points are awarded in each class, and awards are available recognising specified levels of achievement. Operation can be on any amateur band and mode - except terrestrial repeaters. Much of the activity to date has been on 40 metres.

I propose to form a SOTA Association in the Republic of Ireland and I am looking for others to join me in this task. I am fairly familiar with the summits in the Dublin/Wicklow area, but know a lot less about the other mountain ranges, so I would particularly welcome hearing from those who know their way around the hills in other parts of the country.

Please contact me at jryan@iol.ie, or by phone (after 7.00 pm) on 01-285 4250.

Joe Ryan,
EI7GY



Lee de Forest, Ireland and a 'first' in radio history.

This summer, on 29-30 June, a special station EI4LDF, was on the air to celebrate the achievements of the American, Lee de Forest (1873-1961).

De Forest died on 30 June 1961 having had an active life in researching the technical side of radio and broadcasting. The anniversary of his death has been chosen as a fitting date on which to remember de Forest and his contribution to radio.

As a young graduate at Yale University he elected to study Herzian waves for which he was awarded a doctorate.

By 1902 he had developed commercial radio stations along the east coast of the United States and by 1906 had discovered the triode valve.

Throughout his career he won many government contracts and in his lifetime many institutions recognised his contribution to science. He was awarded, for example, an honorary Oscar in 1959 and was enrolled as a member of the *Legion d'Honneur*.

We in Ireland remember him because he came here to these islands in 1903, to north Wales and Howth, Co. Dublin, at a very early stage in the development of radio. His work here led directly to a 'first' in radio history. His experiments conducted across the Irish Sea in November 1903 led to his transmitter-receivers being used to report news from the naval war zone in the Yellow Sea in the Russo-Japanese war. News was sent by radio ship from the theatre of action to the Chinese mainland and thence by cable to London. The distance involved was 14,000 miles and on one occasion news of naval action in the Yellow Sea was known in London within two minutes of its occurrence. It was a 'first' in radio history - war news being sent direct from the centre of action by radio.

Earlier in 1903, de Forest had come to Britain and Ireland at the invitation of the British Post Office in London to demonstrate his wireless system of telegraphy. He set up wireless stations, one overlooking South Stack lighthouse on Holy Island in north west Wales, and another in the Martello tower at Howth, Co. Dublin. His men, Harry Mac Horton at Howth and Frederick Cornish in Wales, sent and received Morse signals at 30-35 words per minute.

These experiments, which took place in November 1903, showed that de Forest's system was faster than the Marconi system. The experiments were monitored by government officials on both sides of the Irish Sea, but unfortunately for de Forest, the reports of the officials were forgotten in the dusty files of the Post Office.

In Wales, de Forest built his station and antenna at 100 metres above sea level, and at Howth, although he could have located his station at a high elevation on Howth Head, was confident of receiving and sending signals from a height of 30 metres.

Conditions in Wales were difficult: it was a remote location, rugged and rocky, with gales blowing. The clapboard shack had to be held down with rocks and ropes. There was some comfort in Howth as de Forest was given the use of the Martello Tower by the General Post Office in Dublin. A tall mast attached to it was used to support an antenna.

De Forest found Howth to be a cold place and despite the fact that there was a fireplace in the tower, he and his men regularly retreated to a local bar nearby where, by the roaring fire, they fortified themselves with Three Star Hennessy.

The experiments were completed and it seemed that de Forest had been wasting his time and resources. But, as luck would have it, Lionel James, an experienced war correspondent, booked passage on a liner leaving Liverpool for America. James was heading for the Yellow Sea, the expected location of the war about to break out between the Russians and the Japanese.

He was aware de Forest was on board and, realising the innovative part radio could play in news reporting, purchased de Forest's radio equipment that had been used in the Irish Sea experiments. Within weeks, James, a civilian, caused an international furore by reporting by radio from a naval war zone 180 miles from land.

This achievement, arising directly from de Forest's work in Ireland was remembered this year on 29-30 June and Bay-side Scouts Amateur Radio Group (EI4BST) set up a Special Event at the Martello Tower Howth using the Call-sign EI4LDF.

IRTS VIDEO LIBRARY

Listed below are the videos being held by the IRTS Video Library.

A charge of 2 Euro will be made to cover the cost of posting which must accompany any application.

Please send your requests to: Jim Ryan EI3DP, 11 Knockgriffin, Middleton, Co. Cork.

Amateur Radio for beginners (RSGB)

This is an excellent video in two parts, the hobby of the space age, (22 minutes) followed by “ How to become a radio Amateur”. (21 minutes)

Fastnet Force 7

A record of the DXpedition to Fastnet Rock Lighthouse, (40 minutes)

Kippure

A tour of the RTE Radio/TV site at Kippure mountain (30 minutes)

Howland Island Dxpedition

Record of the HI Group 1988 trip NO1Z / KH1. (30 minutes)

The New World of Amateur Radio – ARRL

A short introduction to the hobby of Amateur Radio (30 minutes)

Amateur TV in Australia – VK5KG

An introduction to FSTV in Australia. (30 minutes)

Seven Days in Space – NASA

A week on board the American shuttle Discovery. (60 minutes)

Amateur TV – RSGB

Fastscan TV in UK also includes the VK5KG film. (120 minutes)

DATA trip to Dayton 1990

A record of the trip to America by the Dublin Amateur Travel Association (120 minutes)

IRTS Anniversary Lunch

A record of the lunch held in the Clarence Hotel Dublin to pay tribute to the founder members of the IRTS, October 1992. (60 minutes)

Dublin Texas W5IMF

A tape by W5IMF at the time of the Dublin Millennium 1988, (30 minutes)

Introduction to Ham Radio

Includes STS 9 mission and fighter aircraft, (120 minutes)

Galway Radio Club 1984

Selection of events from 1984/1985. (40 minutes)

Galway Radio Club 1985

Selection of events from 1985, Field Day, Aerial lecture and River race. (120 minutes)

Pitcairn Islands

A look at life on the islands including some of the resident amateurs. (70 minutes)

Getting started in Packet Radio. CQ Mag.

How to set up and get on air with Packet. (45 minutes)

Radio Team Finland PJ9W- 1990 CQWW SSB Contest

An account of the setting up and operation of the winning multi – operator contest station by a team of Finnish operators. (45 minutes)

CQ Field Day

Setting up and operating a Field Day station for club enjoyment, training and competition American style. (25 minutes)

Getting Started in Amateur Satellites

A guide to equipment and jargon of satellite communication for the beginner. (50 minutes)

Campbell Island 1999 – ZL9CI

A record of the record breaking DXpedition to Campbell Island. Declan EI6FR was a team member. (60 minutes)

WRTC 2000 in Slovenia

The 3rd World Radio Team Championships were held in Slovenia in the Summer of 2000. Jim EI8GS and Dave EI4BZ attended from Ireland.

Kinsale Lighthouse during International Lighthouse Weekend 2001

Members of the Wicklow Wireless Society and friends activated the Old Head of Kinsale Lighthouse during the International Lighthouse Weekend in August 2001.

If you have any videos suitable for inclusion on this list, please consider donating a copy to the library.